targets are decided by the State Governments.

Subsidy of Diesel

1899. PROF. NAUNIHAL SINGH:: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that although the diesel prices have been halved, the oil pool account is stuck with a Rs. 1,980 crores gap in the form of a subsidy on diesel, if so, the manner in which Government propose to cope up with the situation;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Rs. 50,000 crores, which were transferred to the Public Accounts Deposit in 1989, i.e. from the Oil Board into the general budget, would have to be returned to bridge the gap; if so, the justification thereof; and

(c) whether the prices of products which used to be cross-subsidised would be raised; if so, the reason therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (c) Information in being collected and shall be laid on the table of the House.

Hydro-Electric Projects in Orissa

1900. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether greater emphasis has been laid by Government on the early completion of hydro-electric projects;

(b) if so, the ongoing hydroelectric projects in Orissa and the fund allocations made therefor, so far;

(c) the progress of those projects; and

(d) the expected date of their completion?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI): (a) and (b) Two hydroelectric projects (above 3 MW) are under execution by Orissa Hydro Power Corporation Limited (OHPC) in Orissa. These are the Upper Indravati Hydroelectric Project - 600 MW (4×150 MW) and the Potteru Hydroelectric Project - 6 MW (2×3 MW). Out of the total estimated cost of Upper Indravati Hydroelectric Project of Rs. 1116.3 crores, an expenditure of Rs. 630 crores has been incurred upto March, 1996. A further sum of Rs. 486.3 crores is necessary for the completion of the project. For this, a loan of Rs. 320 crores is being availed from the Power Finance Corporation and the balance will be spent by OHPC from its own resources and assistance of Government of Orissa. The total estimated cost of Potteru Hydroelectric Project is Rs. 18.83 crores out of which an expenditure of Rs. 13.69 crores has been incurred upto March, 1996. Another Rs. 5.14 crores is required to complete the balance works. This requirement will be met from the OHPC the assistance from the Government of Orissa.

(c) and (d) The details of progress and expected date of completion of the projects are given at Statement.

Statement

ANNEXURE

Name of the Project	Expected date of completion	Progress of the Project
1. Upper Indravati	Unit-I Sept. 1998	Most of the civil works relating to dams

Name of the Project	Expected date of completion	Progress of the Project
Hydroelectric Project	Unit-II Jan. 1999 Unit-III May. 1999 Unit-IV Sept. 1999	and dykes have been completed and balance works on head race tunnel, intake structure and Muran dam are in progress. The erection of main turbine generators is under way. The 400 KV switchyard is almost complete and substantial progress has also been made on other electrical works.
2. Potteru Hydro-electric Project	Unit-I Mar. 1997 Unit-II Jun. 1997	The civil works of the power house, diversion weir, head race tunnel are under way. The contracts for supply of generator equipment etc. have been awarded and bulk of equipment has already been procured.

Appointment of retired officers on contract basis

1901. SHRI S. M. KRISHNA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any provision in the rules governing the Central Government employees, including the central services, for their appointment on contract basis;

(b) if so, the period upto which an officer can be appointed on contract basis after retirement; and

(c) what are the criteria being following in such appointments and the benefits being extended to such officers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN): (a) Contract is one of the recognized methods of appointment in Government. Such appointments are made by the Ministries/Departments as per requirements of the job and the suitability of the concerned appointees.

(b) and (c) There is no specific period upto which a retired officer can be appointed on contract basis as the period of engagement would depend upon the terms of the contract. However, in so far as extension/re-employment beyond superannuation is concerned, existing instructions provide that 60 years of age is the deadline for non-scientific/technical personnel. Such appointments are made in public interest with the overriding consideration for extension of service/re-employed being that other officers are not ripe enough to take over or the retiring/retired officer is of outstanding merit.

Such appointees are governed by mutually settled terms and conditions as per the contract agreements.

हाजीरा-बीजापुर-जगदीशपुर गैस पाइपलाइन के द्वारा गैस की आपूर्ति

1902. **श्री राधाकिशन मालवीय:** क्या प्रधान मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या हाजीरा-बीजापुर-जगदीशपुर गैस पाइपलाइन के द्वारा गैस की आपूर्ति की जा रही है; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो गैस आवंटन का राज्य-वार ब्यौरा क्या है?